

CIA Director Helms

Mr. Speaker, as we are about to face the challenges of the new year, I think it is most appropriate for us to pause to take note of the fact that we will do so without the assistance of one whom many of us in the Congress have relied upon heavily in the past for unvarnished facts about what was going on abroad. I am, of course, referring to Richard Helms, the Director of Central Intelligence.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, the President has announced his intention to nominate Mr. Helms to be Ambassador to Iran. This appointment obviously reflects the respect and deep appreciation for Mr. Helms' extremely able and devoted service to the country and the President's desire that Mr. Helms remain in Government service. In conjunction with this move, the President has designated James Schlesinger, currently Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, for nomination to succeed Mr. Helms as Director of Central Intelligence.

(Mr. Schlesinger has had a distinguished career having served in the Office of Management and Budget as an Assistant Director for national security and international programs prior to his appointment to AEC. Mr. Schlesinger came to the Federal Government in 1969 from the Rand Corporation where he was Director of Strategic Studies. Before that, he was a professor at the University of Virginia from 1955 to 1963.)

During my more than 37 years in Congress, I have witnessed the performance of many capable men in high office. Institutions are the breadth and width of the shadows of the men who run them and the best men inculcate a tradition of excellence. Mr. Richard M. Helms has been one of these men. He has left a heritage of excellence for the CIA and the intelligence profession.

In a sense, Richard Helms cut his teeth on foreign intelligence. As a matter of fact some 36 years ago Mr. Helms, as a young United Press correspondent, covered the Olympic games in Germany. While there he, along with a group of other reporters, participated in an interview with Adolph Hitler and the resulting story written by young Helms, "Hitler and Mars Incorporated," was published in the United States. As a young naval officer, he served with the Office of Strategic Services in Washington, England, France, and Germany during World War II. Following his discharge in 1946, he went to work as a civilian in the Strategic Services Unit, War Department, which was the successor organization to a major part of the Office of Strategic Services. From there he transferred to the Central Intelligence Group, and then to the Central Intelligence Agency when that Agency was established in 1947.

Within five years, he became the Deputy to the Deputy Director for Plans under the then Director of Central Intelligence, General Walter Bedell Smith. He was elevated to the position of Deputy Director for Plans by John A. McCone and in 1965 was nominated by President Johnson to be the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence. In 1966 he was confirmed by the Senate as the Director of Central Intelligence.

Mr. Helms' intelligence career typifies excellence in Government. In 1965 the National Civil Service League awarded him the Career Service Award for combining the best characteristics of a strong leader skilled in the complex arts of foreign intelligence operations, an able administrator, and a dedicated career officer devoted to the public service.

It is not easy for the public to determine the value of the intelligence product provided by Mr. Helms and the Central Intelligence Agency. The work of the CIA must be shrouded in secrecy. However, it is always available to those in the Government who have a need to know. In connection with our work on the Appropriations Committee, I have been exposed constantly to this intelligence product. In many ways it can be the decisive ingredient in determinations concerning allocations of our defense budget, the type of weapons needed in our defense arsenal, the type of agreements we can safely conclude with foreign nations on disarmament and other important matters. This intelligence product is indispensable

in getting an understanding of the problems and opportunities which face us abroad. I can assure you that it has had a direct bearing on a number of crucial issues which affect each and every one of us as a citizen and as a taxpayer.

Many view foreign intelligence in the context of military operations solely, but it is also essential that we have accurate intelligence to forestall conflict. In March of 1969, President Nixon referred to CIA:

"...as one of the great instruments of our government for the preservation of peace, for the avoidance of war, and for the development of a society in which this kind of activity would not be as necessary, if necessary at all."

Mr. Speaker, the responsibility for providing objective facts and detached analysis in these crucial areas is the only way that we can be assured that the individual responsible for making critical judgments concerning our nation's very security has available to him a basis of knowledge for the action he takes or, perhaps more important in some instances, for not taking any action at all.

The heavy burden that fell upon the shoulders of Richard Helms and the Central Intelligence Agency was not limited to ferreting out, correctly analyzing, and disseminating information to the appropriate officials. These are not simple tasks in themselves, but no matter how

well done, their value is naught unless the information is believed and used by those who have the responsibility to make decisions. Credibility is the life blood of CIA. Without it, its work is ineffective and its cost is extravagant.

Mr. Speaker, under Mr. Helms' stewardship credibility has been the trademark at the Central Intelligence Agency. Integrity and objectivity have been the watch words. Abstinence from any possible policy involvement has been the rule. These were the creeds that brought the professionalism which Mr. Helms persistently pursued.

At the swearing-in ceremony of Mr. Helms as Director in 1966, President Johnson said:

"Although he (Mr. Helms) has spent more than twenty years in public life attempting to avoid publicity, he has never been able to conceal the fact that he is one of the most trusted and most able and most dedicated professional career men in this Capitol. No man has ever come to this high critical office with better qualifications.

"I think it was Patrick Henry who said, 'The battle is not to the strong alone, it is to the vigilant and to the active and to the brave,' and it is to Dick Helms and to the Agency that he will now head that we must look for this vigilance. His own record and the past achievements of his Agency give us

full confidence in the future operation of the Central Intelligence Agency with judgment, with intelligence and above all with great public integrity."

Mr. Helms has lived up to these exacting expectations completely. He has left a heritage that I have every reason to believe will be continued by his successor, Mr. Schlesinger. It must be continued if this nation is to arrive at informed decisions about the choices that face us in our dealings with foreign nations on this ever increasingly complex planet of ours.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert at this point in the Record several editorials concerning Mr. Helms' tenure at CIA.